

- 1) Addressing the social determinates of health such as housing and adequate income is vital to improving the health of Ontario's population.
- 2) Providing adequate services in the community makes economic sense because they reduce demands on hospital and other high cost services.
- 3) The provincial government must ensure that community mental health and addiction agencies receive base budget increases, to avoid loss in existing service capacity. Increased funding to LHINs for community services has not been passed on to agencies already serving the community—agencies have not had increases to base funding for more than 5 years.

For example, in the Toronto Central LHIN, it appears that funding to Community Support Services and Mental Health and Addictions program streams has increased by between 8 and 11% annually over the last 3 years, but new funding has all been devoted to new services while existing agency budgets have been flat lined. This is not sustainable, and Health Service Providers will be forced to erode services, in areas where demand already outstrips supply.

- 4) Improving access to Supportive Housing in Toronto and across the province should be a government priority as part of the strategy to end homelessness within 10 years.
- 5) The government should fund the implementation of the Supportive Housing strategy developed by the Mental Health and Addictions Leadership Council which calls for the development of a minimum of 30,000 units with supports over the next 10 years, by increasing program funding, capital funding, and funding for adequate rent supplements and housing allowances. Waitlists will continue to grow unless housing supply is increased.
- 6) The Ministry of Health and Long Term Care should also make strategic investments in infrastructure to support the community sector, such as funding to allow better use of the data we collect to improve quality and foster innovation.
- 7) The Ontario government should come to an agreement on the Health Accord with the Federal government which would earmark up to \$2 billion which could be used to fund new Supportive Housing and related services.

We are pleased to leave with you copies of The Toronto Supportive Housing Network's detailed response to the recent report on Supportive Housing released by the Ontario Auditor General in November, 2016. Our response provides detail on many of the points we have just made.